

Maine EMS Exam Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

De Champlain Conference Room, Augusta

Minutes

Present: Jacky Vaniotis – Chair, Joanne LeBrun, Gary Utgard, Trisha Coleman, Bill Zito

Absent: Rick Doughty, Bob Hawkes, Travis Norsworthy, Kelly Roderick

Guest:

Staff: Drexell White

1. Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

A. Assign Timekeeper – Trisha Coleman

B. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda – None

2. Minutes – December 20, 2005, meeting minutes - review for acceptance

The minutes of the December 20, 2005 meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To accept the minutes of the December 20, 2005 meeting (Coleman: LeBrun - motion carries).

3. Old Business

A. Paramedic Exam – Pros and Cons - Placeholder

B. Student Handbook - Placeholder

C. EMT-B Practical – Placeholder

D. Registry Task Analysis – Placeholder

E. Spinal and Airway Considerations for Testing – Placeholder

F. The Integrated Practical Exam

1. Skill Sheets – Maine vs. NREMT

Staff reported that the first round of Integrated Practical Exams included concerns about the national registry skill sheets including:

- Sheets do not flow well
- Repeated Tasks (e.g. BSI/scene safety repeated in the airway station on each of the four sheets)

While the committee acknowledged the issues with the NREMT forms, consensus was to review the fall 2005 and spring 2006 data from the IPE feedback forms to determine if action regarding the skill sheets is warranted. A June 2006 review is planned.

It was suggested that the results of the feedback compilation be provided to ICs and sponsors – disseminated through the Maine EMS Journal and the Maine EMS website.

2. FAQs about Exam Process – No action taken to date

3. IPE Flowchart – No action taken to date**4. Letter to Sponsors in re: IPE and Course Approval Numbers**

D. White reported that the letter has not yet been sent.

5. Revision of State Evaluator Form

The committee concluded that the State Evaluator form is sufficient at this time and does not require modification.

6. Scenarios – Nothing to Report**7. Response to Hodge Letter**

J. Vaniotis indicated that she had responded to Chuck Hodge's letter.

8. Form Changes – Nothing to Report**4. New Business****A. State Evaluator Training**

D. White reported that training for state evaluators is being handled by the state staff.

B. PTA Training

The committee discussed the need for Practical Test Assistant training. In light of other issues before the committee in 2006, Practical Test Assistant training was assigned a low priority. It is also noted that some course sponsors are providing training for Practical Test Assistants.

C. Test Failure – Review of 3 strikes model

The committee discussed the number of written and or practical testing opportunities that a student has after completing a Maine EMS course-leading-to-licensure. Currently, the student has three opportunities take either the written or practical exam. Should a student fail either the written or practical three times he or she is afforded the opportunity to take a refresher program and then retest an additional three times. Currently there is no limit to the number of times student may take a refresher program and again challenge the state written and practical exam.

Motion: That the Maine EMS Exam Committee proposes adopting a policy that allows a candidate for a Maine EMS state written or practical exam three opportunities to successfully complete the written and practical state licensing exam; that if the student fails the written or practical exam three times, the student be allowed to take a course of refresher training, approved for that student by Maine EMS and be allowed three more opportunities to complete the written and practical exam; and that if the student fails either the Maine EMS state written or state practical exam three times after refresher training, the student must complete an original course for licensure before being allowed sit for another state written or practical exam (LeBrun; Utgard – motion carries)

D. White will notify Dwight Corning and Dan Batsie for Education Committee comment on the proposed policy.

D. IPE Timing – Nothing to Report

E. Other Concerns.

Throughout the day's meeting, there was discussion about priorities for 2006. After consideration, the committee established the following priorities for 2006, listed in order of importance:

- Computer Adaptive Testing at the EMT-Basic level
- Integrated Practical Exam Evaluations
- The "3 Strikes" Policy – See 4.C. above
- Integrated Practical Exams for the Intermediate and/or Paramedic levels
- Paramedic Written Exam Revision

Consensus of the Committee was that the pending January 1, 2007, National Registry of EMT (NREMT) switch to Computer Adaptive Testing (CAT) requires the committee's immediate attention. Committee members developed a series of questions for the NREMT to assist the committee in making a recommendation to the Board about EMT-Basic written testing after December 31, 2006. Questions included:

1. Is January 1, 2007, the actual implementation date (i.e. is NREMT still "on target")?
2. Will there still be an option for "paper and pencil" testing?
3. What are the street addresses of the Pearson Vue Test Centers in Maine?
4. What will be the Test Centers operating hours?
5. What will be the scheduling procedure for test candidates?
6. Is there a transition phase from paper to pencil or will CAT be the only option after December 31, 2006 for EMT-Basic written testing?
7. What is the range of the number of questions administered in the CAT EMT-B exam?
8. What will be the time limit for completing an EMT-B CAT?
9. Will "Assessment" exams be administered via CAT or other electronic format or will they be available as a paper and pencil test?
10. Would someone from Pearson Vue be available to speak with the committee?

Committee consensus was that the Board needs to be notified of the pending deadline and that the Exam Committee is researching the issue.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2006, at 9:30 a.m. in the de Champlain conference room at Maine EMS in Augusta.

A. Set Agenda

- 1. Computer Adaptive Testing - 90**
- 2. IPE Evaluations/ Concerns - 30**
- 3. "3 Strikes" Policy - 30**
- 4. ALS IPE**
- 5. Paramedic Written Exam**

6. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Drexell White